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This is the first installment of a careful study of the working of an institution which, however political its conception and purpose, dealt perforce mainly with economic problems. Chapter 1 describes the experiment of the federal government in colonizing the freedmen on the sea islands of North Carolina during the years 1862-1865. The result of this experiment enabled the government to draw up a workable freedman's bureau bill when the system was extended to all the insurrectionary states in 1865. In the second chapter is described the organization and administration of the bureau, and in the two following chapters the distribution of the land, and problems connected with labor, justice, and marriage relations. The handling of the land question was particularly inept, the negroes being promised land three times, only to have it taken from them, while the dispossessed planters were often unjustly treated. The labor problem was settled by forcing the negroes and planters to make wage contracts, but these were often broken and difficult to enforce. In the settlement of the confused marriage relationships of the freedmen the author concludes that the bureau's work was beneficial. The study is carried to the end of 1865 in this number.

E. L. B.

WICKWARE, F. G., editor. *The American year book, a record of events and progress*. 1915 edition. (New York: Appleton. 1916. Pp. xviii, 862. \$3.)

*The Argentine yearbook, 1915-1916. With short chapters on the republics of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile*. (New York: Donnell and Palmer. 1916. \$5.25.)

*China*. (New York: Guaranty Trust Co. 1916. Pp. 62.)

*Louisiana, her financial needs; an analysis of existing conditions, with practical remedial suggestions*. (New Orleans: Bankers Loan & Securities Co. 1916. Pp. 31.)

*Russia*. (New York: Guaranty Trust Co. 1916. Pp. 53.)

### Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, and Fisheries

*Irrigation in the United States. A Discussion of its Legal, Economic, and Financial Aspects*. By RAY PALMER TEELE. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1915. Pp. viii, 252. \$1.50.)

The public has been slowly awakening to the importance of the conservation and use of the natural resources of the country. Among these, the most fundamental is land. Anything which will reduce the enormous area of wasted land and which will correspondingly increase the extent to which it can be put to beneficial use must be of value not merely to the occupants of the land

but to the entire community, the effects reaching out to the state and to the nation.

The United States includes within its borders vast tracts of arid land. Nearly two fifths of the entire surface has relatively little, if any, use because of lack of moisture. It is difficult to grasp this significant fact and to appreciate that the geographical extent of several of our western states exceeds that of the warring monarchies of Europe or that their millions of population could make a living within the area of these sparsely settled states were it not for a single deficiency—the lack of the most common of minerals, namely, water—a deficiency which in part may be remedied by irrigation.

The little book by Mr. Teele discusses the problems of irrigation in the United States in their legal, economic, and financial aspects. The engineering side has been discussed quite fully in various publications, but this book is perhaps the most complete and simple presentation of the factors which make possible the work of the irrigation engineer. There is probably nothing at present available which enables a business man or general student to obtain a better grasp of the subject than does this work. Beginning with a general statement regarding irrigation and its importance, the development of agriculture by artificial application of water is shown and the reasons for its limitations are pointed out in a discussion of the climatic conditions and water supply. The value of crops is also considered and it is shown that by far the greater part of the irrigated lands is devoted to what are commonly called general farm crops. Nearly two thirds of the total acreage is devoted to hay, principally alfalfa; the average value for all crops raised by irrigation is a little over \$25 per acre.

Irrigation, as every other good thing in a new country, has been greatly exploited. As an offset to the exaggerated statements which have prevailed, Mr. Teele points out "that the large yields and the high crop values so much exploited are not the rule but the exception. The truth is that the larger part of irrigated land, like the larger part of all farm land, is devoted to the general crops which bring moderate returns." It is important to emphasize this matter in order to better understand the reason why at present stagnation largely prevails in irrigation development.

In discussing the legislation pertaining to irrigation the fact

is brought out that the laws have not been kept up with the needs of the people, also that there is great confusion as between the various states, and much popular misconception as to the laws themselves, resulting in almost endless controversy. In certain localities more money has been spent in litigation than in irrigation.

This condition of perennial litigation, combined with moderate average returns from the irrigated lands, has been unfortunate for irrigation investment. Most of the investors, especially those living in the eastern part of the United States or in Europe, are in the position of "involuntary philanthropists" in that their money has been used to develop certain areas, with correspondingly great benefit to the locality, but with almost complete loss to the investors. The state authorities, which, in popular opinion at least, have the duty of supervising some of these projects, have not always had the experience or opportunity for properly discharging their duties. While many individuals have invested money under the assumption that approval had been given by the Secretary of the Interior or by state boards of irrigation, as a matter of fact such approval has been simply to the title of the land or to the form of contract, not in the nature of a guarantee either by the federal government or the state. Methods of organization and operation of irrigation enterprises are discussed as well as the present situation and future of irrigation in the United States.

It is shown that, while in the past there have been successive waves of enthusiasm and depression, there is now a gradual expansion of irrigation, resulting mainly from individual or small community effort. This is accompanied by a gradual enlargement of the acreage of irrigated land made possible by more economical use of the water. Larger projects now quiescent may be taken up in the future by some kind of coöperation between the public and private agencies such as may involve public supervision and public contribution not to be repaid immediately. It is apparent that for the immediate future at least there will not be a repetition of the reckless investments of former years. Private capital can no longer be attracted to this work on a speculative basis, but the large storage reservoirs and other great structures needed for the development of the arid regions must be built by some form of public enterprise, one which is not essentially money making in character.

The book as a whole is quite readable and will answer the questions of many thousands of investors in the East who can not understand why they have not been able to obtain anything from the money spent in good faith in irrigation works. It also has interest to those living upon or near irrigated farms and who are deriving an income which is more or less dependent upon the success of irrigation.

F. H. NEWELL.

#### NEW BOOKS

BIDWELL, P. W. *Rural economy in New England at the beginning of the nineteenth century.* (New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. 1916. Pp. 158.)

To be reviewed.

MILLAR, A. *Wheat and its products.* (London: Pitman. 1916. Pp. 148. 2s.)

SANFORD, A. H. *The story of agriculture in the United States.* (Boston: Heath. 1916. Pp. 394. \$1.)

WILES, R. *Cuban cane sugar—a sketch of the industry from soil to sack.* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. 1916. Pp. 85. 75c.)

*Cotton year book and diary, 1916.* (Manchester: Marsden & Co. 1916. Pp. 659. 2s. 6d.)

*International year book of agricultural statistics.* (Rome: Intern. Inst. Agri. 1916.)

*Monographs on agricultural coöperation in various countries.* (Rome: Intern. Inst. Agri. 1916.)

*Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, 1915.* (Washington: Dept. Agri. 1916. 75c.)

#### Manufacturing Industries

*Textiles.* Prepared in the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin by PAUL N. NYSTROM. Commercial Education Series. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1916. Pp. xviii, 335. \$1.50.)

The purpose of this book is to present in concise form the essential facts regarding the production, manufacture, and distribution of the ordinary textiles of commerce, in such shape as to be of value to retail and wholesale salespeople and to the general public who may wish to obtain an insight into the great textile industry. To treat a technical subject in such way that it may be clearly understood by non-technical readers is a difficult